

## KAREN BENNETT

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### Regular Academic Positions:

Professor, Cornell University, 2014-present  
Associate Professor, Cornell University, 2007-2014  
Assistant Professor, Princeton University, 2000-2007  
Postdoctoral Fellow, RSSH, Australian National University, August 2001—August 2005.  
(taken up in 3 semesters and the summers)

### Visiting Positions:

Visiting Associate Professor (by invitation), New York University, Fall 2010

### Education:

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), 2000  
M.A., Philosophy, University of Michigan, 1996  
B.A., Philosophy, *magna cum laude*, Oberlin College, 1993

### Areas of Specialization:

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind

### Work in Progress

From the laser to the taser: ontological parsimony and metaphysical foundationalism.  
Why I am not a dualist.

### Edited Volumes

Co-editor (with Dean Zimmerman), *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, volumes 6-10 thus far

### Books

*Making Things Up*. 2017, Oxford University Press.

### Published and Forthcoming Papers

Forthcoming. The limits of conceptual analysis. *Philosophic Exchange*.  
Forthcoming. Part and whole again. *Philosophical Issues*.  
Forthcoming. Actualism. For *The Routledge Handbook of Modality*.  
2017. Language, ontology, and metaphysics. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 94: 466-473.  
2015. “Perfectly understood, unproblematic, and certain”: Lewis on mereology. In Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer, eds., *Blackwell Companion to David Lewis*, 250-261.  
2015. There is no special problem with metaphysics. *Philosophical Studies* 173: 21-37.

2013. Having a part twice over. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 91: 83-103.
2011. By our bootstraps. *Philosophical Perspectives* 25: 27-41.
2011. Truthmaking and casemaking. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 83: 187-195.
2011. Construction area: no hard hat required. *Philosophical Studies* 154: 79-104.
2011. Koslicki on formal proper parts. *Analysis* 71: 286-290.
2009. What you don't know *can* hurt you. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 79: 766-774.
2009. Composition, coincidence, and metaontology. In *Metametaphysics*, eds. David Chalmers, David Manley, and Ryan Wasserman, Oxford University Press.
2008. Exclusion again. In *Being Reduced: New Essays on Reduction, Explanation, Causation*, eds. J. Kallestrup and J. Hohwy, Oxford University Press.  
Reprinted (2011) in *Consciousness and the Mind-Body Problem: A Reader*, edited by Torin Alter and Robert J. Howell, Oxford University Press.
2007. Mental causation. *Philosophy Compass* 2: 316-337.
2006. Proxy 'actualism'. *Philosophical Studies* 129:2, 263-294.
2005. Two axes of actualism. *The Philosophical Review* 114:3, 297-326.
2005. Supervenience. (With Brian McLaughlin). In the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
2004. Global supervenience and dependence. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 68:3, 501-529.
2004. Spatio-temporal coincidence and the grounding problem. *Philosophical Studies* 118:3, 339-371.
2003. Why the exclusion problem seems intractable, and how, just maybe, to tract it. *Noûs* 37:3, 471-497.

#### Book Reviews

2005. Review of *Possible Worlds*, by John Divers. *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 83:2, 282-285.
2004. Review of *How Things Persist*, by Katherine Hawley. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 69:1, 230-233.
2003. Review of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Philosophy*, ed. James B. South. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (<http://ndpr.nd.edu/>).

#### Upcoming Talks

- Keynote speaker at 2017 Australasian Association of Philosophy conference (Australia)
- University of Michigan alumni conference
- University of Vermont
- SWIP Analytic

#### Past Talks and Conference Presentations:

- Purdue University Distinguished Woman Visitor
- SOFIA conference (Mexico), January 2017
- Comments on Shumener, Metaphysics at the Ranch conference, January 2017
- The University of Nebraska, November 2016
- Public lecture at "Center for Philosophic Exchange" at SUNY Brockport, October 2016
- The Burman Lectures at the University of Umea (Sweden), October 2016

University of Massachusetts, September 2016  
 Keynote speaker at 2016 Geneva Graduate Conference (Switzerland), May 2016  
 University of Illinois at Chicago, April 2016  
 Kline Workshop at the University of Missouri: Ontological Commitment, March 2016  
 The Morris Colloquium: Metaphysics and its History (University of Colorado), March 2016  
 Central APA (invited symposium on fundamentality), March 2016  
 University of Miami, February 2016  
 Southern Methodist University, November 2015  
 Brown University, September 2015  
 Comments on Amijee's "Contingentism and the PSR," 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellingham Summer  
 Philosophy Conference, August 2015.  
 University of Georgia, February 2015  
 University of Texas at Austin, November 2014  
 University of Houston, November 2014  
 Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics, October 2014  
 Keynote Speaker for Creighton Club annual conference, September 2014  
 Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy,  
 Princeton University, August 2014  
 Daylong presentation about relative fundamentality at Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers  
 University, May 2014  
 Comments on Rayo's *The Construction of Logical Space*, at Logical and Modal Space  
 Workshop, NYU, April 2014  
 "There is no special problem with metaphysics"  
 "World Philosophy Day" event at the University of Toronto  
 Invited symposium, Pacific APA, April 2014  
 41<sup>st</sup> annual Oberlin Colloquium, May 2014  
 "Relative Fundamentality," Tufts University, November 2013  
 Chapters 1-5 of *Making Things Up*, Varieties of Metaphysical Priority workshop, University  
 of Mainz, November 2013  
 "The Nonfundamental," Bridging Metaphysics and Philosophy of Physics conference,  
 University of Rochester, September 2013  
 "Fundamentality and What is Fundamental," Big vs. Small Conference, University of  
 Hamburg, Germany, June 2013  
 Q&A session to conclude a reading group on my book ms, Oxford University, March 2013  
 "There is No Special Problem about the Methodology of Metaphysics,"  
 Notre Dame, March 2013  
 University of Michigan, Spring Colloquium on the Methodology of Metaphysics, March  
 2013  
 "Building Fundamentality", Back at the Ranch Ontology Conference, January 2013  
 "Making Things Up"  
 University of Barcelona, October 2011  
 University of Mississippi, November 2011  
 "By Our Bootstraps"  
 CUNY Graduate Center, September 2011  
 University of Memphis, November 2011  
 University of Kentucky, March 2012

University of Wisconsin at Madison, March 2012

Comments on Amie Thomasson's "Modal Normativism: We Can Work it Out"  
45<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapel Hill Colloquium, November 2011

"Naturalism and Fundamentality"  
Arché Conference on naturalism in metaphysics, October 2011

"Kripke's Paradox"  
Conference at CUNY Graduate Center celebrating the publication of Kripke's  
*Philosophical Troubles*, September 2011

"Building and Causing"  
Stanford University, April 2011  
University of Rochester, April 2011  
University of Missouri, March 2011  
USC, February 2011  
MIT, February 2011  
NYU, October 2010  
Rutgers, October 2010  
NC State, October 2010  
University of Massachusetts, November 2010

"How Philosophers Think about the Meaning of Life"  
Public lecture at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, March 2011

Reply to Robert Brandom's "Modal Expressivism and Modal Realism"  
NYU Issues in Modern Philosophy Conference, November 2011

"Construction Area: No Hard Hat Required"  
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2010

"Flavors of Fundamentality"  
Invited paper at RSSS Fundamentality Conference, ANU, July 2010

"Fundamentality"  
Full day seminar-style presentation at the Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University,  
May 2010

"How Philosophers Think about the Meaning of Life"  
Invited public lecture at the One Day University, April 2010

"Of Motorcycles and Mereology"  
Author-meets-critics session on Kathrin Koslicki's *The Structure of Objects*, Pacific  
APA, March 2010

"The Ordinary and the Fundamental"  
Invited paper at Ordinary Objects Conference, Auburn University, February 2010

"Putting Things Together"  
Perspectives on Ontology Conference, University of Leeds, UK, September 2008  
Keynote Address to Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference, March 2009  
Indiana University, March 2009  
Notre Dame University, March 2009  
Brown University, September 2009  
University of Konstanz, November 2009

"Construction Area: No Hard Hat Required"  
Invited symposium on ontological emergence, Central APA, February 2009  
Mellon Metaphysics Workshop, May 2009

“Thomasson’s *Ordinary Objects*”  
 Author meets critics session, Eastern APA, December 2008  
 Comments on Jonathan Schaffer’s “The Internal Relatedness of All Things”  
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2008  
 “Metametametaphysics”  
 Invited symposium, Eidos group, University of Geneva, Switzerland, July 2008  
 Invited symposium, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, March 2008  
 “Maybe Sometime”  
 University of Toronto, February 2008  
 Jowett Society, Oxford University, October 2007  
 Syracuse University, November 2007  
 “New Thoughts on Mental Causation”  
 Syracuse Mental Causation Workshop, December 2007  
 “Eternalist Actualism”  
 Keynote address at the University of Texas Graduate Conference, April 2007  
 Comments on Michael Nelson’s “The Contingency of Existence”  
 Invited symposium, Pacific APA, April 2007  
 Comments on Thomas Hofweber’s “Ontology as a Philosopher’s Project”  
 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, March 2007  
 “Two Causal –isms”  
 NYU Causation Conference, La Pietra, Italy, June 2006  
 Comments on Eric Hiddleston’s “The Reductivist’s Troubles with Mental Causation”  
 Invited symposium, Pacific APA, March 2006  
 “Why I am Not a Dualist”  
 Mt. Holyoke College, April 2007  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 2007  
 Cornell University, December 2006  
 University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, December 2006  
 University of Utah, November 2006  
 Metaphysics of Science Workshop, Birmingham, UK, June 2006  
 UC Vermont, April 2006  
 UC Davis, April 2006  
 Columbia University, March 2006  
 Harvard University, October 2005  
 University of Pennsylvania, November 2005  
 Brown University, December 2005  
 Australasian Association of Philosophy Meetings, July 2005  
 “Exclusion Again”  
 Reed College, February 2006  
 Comments on Cian Dorr’s “Numbers and Electrons”  
 Eastern APA, December 2005  
 “Composition, Coincidence, and Metaontology”  
 University of Colorado at Boulder, December 2006  
 Ohio State University, October 2006  
 Washington University in St. Louis, October 2006  
 Arizona Ontology Conference, Tucson, January 2006

Metametaphysics Conference, ANU, July 2005  
 CUNY Graduate Center, February 2005  
 Oberlin College, February 2005  
 NYU Mind and Language Seminar, April 2005  
 Invited symposium on metaontology, with Stephen Yablo and Eli Hirsch  
 Eastern APA, Dec. 2004  
 "Metametaphysics"  
 University of Melbourne, October 2004  
 "Exclusion Again"  
 Conference on 'Describing the World in Physics', Rutgers, April 2005  
 Australasian Association of Philosophy Meeting, July 2004  
 Macquarie University Mental Causation Workshop, September 2004  
 Comments on Carolina Sartorio's "On Causing Something to Happen in a Certain Way  
 without Causing it to Happen"  
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2004  
 "Exclusion Again: Poison Pills and Placebos"  
 NAMICONA conference on Mental Causation, Aarhus University (Denmark), May 2004  
 "Metametaphysics" (early version)  
 Brown University, March 2004  
 Invited symposium on Michael Jubien's "Analyzing Modality"  
 Pacific APA, March 2004  
 Comments on Dean Zimmerman's "Presentism and a Timelessly Eternal Deity"  
 Keynote session, New Jersey Regional Philosophy Conference, November 2003  
 "Two Axes of Actualism"  
 MIT, October 2003  
 Keynote Address at Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Student Conference, April 2003  
 Monash University, April 2002  
 Response to Jessica Wilson's "The Many in One Problem"  
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2002:  
 "How Not to Be an Actualist"  
 RSSS, Australian National University, February 2002  
 "Why the Exclusion Problem Seems Intractable, and How, Just Maybe, to Tract It"  
 New York University, April 2001  
 "Token Dualism and Causal Competition (or, Mental Causation Yet Again)"  
 Metaphysical Mayhem V, August 2000  
 "On Differing Modally"  
 Cornell University, Stanford University, The University of Texas at Austin, The University  
 of Florida at Gainesville, Pomona College, The University of Southern California,  
 University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Arizona State University, Jan-Feb 2000.  
 Comments on Robert Allen's "The Necessity of Identity"  
 APA Central Division Meeting, May 1999  
 Response to Jaegwon Kim's "What is Naturalism?"  
 16th Annual University of Michigan Spring Colloquium, March 1997

### Courses Taught

Undergraduate: Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Metaphysics, Intermediate Metaphysics, Freshman Writing Seminar: Philosophy Through Science Fiction, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy and Everyday Life, undergraduate seminars on causation and constitution

Graduate: seminars on determination, fundamentality, mereology and priority, metametaphysics, objects, modality, metaphysics of mind, contemporary dualisms

Ph.D. students (post-coursework students only; either chair or minor member)

At Cornell:

Nate Meyvis, defended April 2017  
David Kovacs, defended May 2016  
Andrea Viggiano, defended July 2016  
Daniel Murphy, defended July 2015  
Eric Rowe, defended July 2015  
Ian McKay, defended August 2014  
Stephen Mahaffey, defended December 2013  
Zachary Abrahams, defended October 2012

In progress:, Chad McIntosh, Fran Fairbairn, Vivek Mathew, Augie Faller, Zeyu Chi

At Princeton:

Paul Audi, "Beyond Causal Theories of Mind," 2007. Now tenured at the University of Rochester.  
Colin Klein, "Idealizing the Mind," 2006. Now a lecturer at Macquarie (had been tenured at the University of Illinois at Chicago).  
Stephan Leuenberger, "*Ceteris Absentibus* Physicalism," 2006. Now a lecturer at the University of Glasgow.

Honors and Awards:

Robert and Helen Appel Fellowship for Humanists and Social Scientists (Cornell), 2008  
For excellence in both teaching and research.  
John Dewey Prize, 2000  
For excellence in undergraduate teaching in the Michigan Philosophy Department  
Graduate Student Mentor, 1999-2000  
In charge of training first-time teaching assistants in the Michigan Philosophy Dept.  
Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 1997-1998  
University-wide competition  
Charles Stevenson Award, 1997  
Awarded annually for the best candidacy dossier submitted to the Michigan Phil. Dept.  
Mellon Fellowship, 1997  
Marshall Weinberg Summer Fellowship, 1996

Service to the Profession:

Frequent tenure and promotion letters for other departments  
The usual departmental jobs like placement director  
Co-editor of *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*

Editor-in-chief of *The Philosophical Review*, 2015-16  
One of three editors of *The Philosophical Review*, January 2013-2016.  
Editorial Board, *Philosophical Studies*, 2005-present  
Served as mentor for a workshop to assist female graduate students profession-wide (2015)  
Served on an external review committee for the Department of Philosophy at the University of Miami (2015)  
Nominating Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA (elected), 2013-2015  
Referee for *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Mind and Language*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthèse*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Monist*, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Princeton University Press, Continuum Press, Acumen Press.  
Advisory Committee to APA Eastern Division Program Committee (Metaphysics), 2007-2010  
Program Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, 2006; guest co-editor of resulting issue of *Philosophical Studies*

Service to Cornell:

University Appeals Panel (appointed by President David Skorton), 2013-present  
Academic Records Committee (appointed), 2013-present  
Dean's Advisory Committee on Appointments (elected), 2011-2014; 2017-2020  
House fellow, Hans Bethe House, 2011-  
Organized Boyd-Sturgeon retirement conference, September 2012  
Organized Mellon Metaphysics Workshop at Cornell, 2009 and 2012  
Placement director, Cornell University, 2008-2010  
The usual slate of departmental committee work, including hiring and graduate admissions, etc.